



# newsletter

fall 2019



## Annual dinner celebrates success!

A diverse audience filled the hall at our annual Barbecue Benefit Dinner in June. It was the perfect backdrop for a celebration of ten former KC kids who graduated from Frankfort/Franklin County High Schools. These students were given a standing ovation as they received their certificates and checks.

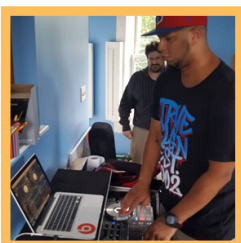
**Graduates said the Kings Center had taught them a lot, including:** *responsibility, leadership, how to interact with others, life skills, table manners, not to be afraid to ask questions, to be more outgoing, to work with others even when I didn't want to, to be kind and look after one another, and to always listen to another's side of the story before judging.*

Our speaker was Dale Robinson, founder of the Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation for youths impacted by incarceration. He told how he turned his life around and is now reaching out to children whose family members are incarcerated. "Your greatest weapon, your most important tool . . . is your own mind," said Dale. "Everything, from your first step forward to your highest goals and achievements, starts or stops with your mindset . . . RULE YOUR MIND!" Dale meets every other week at the Kings Center to encourage the children to have a positive mindset.

## Two new programs

**Piano Lessons** - On a newly-donated piano, Deneen Petty, the Kings Center's multi-talented director, began teaching basic lessons to a group of students who wanted to learn more. Marian Hayden, a Kings Center volunteer and supporter, and a member of the Yes Arts board, asked her son Trey to give lessons over the summer. The lessons were so popular that Yes Arts plans to offer after-school arts programming this fall.

**Tennis Lessons** just started and the kids are excited to be learning the basics. Cynthia Elliott is lining up instructors to teach ten children each week at Dolly Graham Park.



## HeartBEATS is back

We kicked off the new semester with a teaching artist talent show, questions and answers, and collaborative beat making. Dj Double shared his DJ skills, Jeri Katherine Howell performed an original song, Jordon Ellis discussed how different drums translate to the Ableton Push and then drum soloed over several genres, Marlin McKay performed cornet, and new teaching artist Brian Bertucci performed an original song on guitar and some electronic music!

**The Kings Center is a nonprofit community center that has been dedicated to helping children thrive for more than 20 years. We are grateful for generous support from the Frankfort community.**

## Summer fun

The Kings Center kids had a great summer with lots of visitors bringing new experiences to the center, and lots of opportunities to hop on their new bus to explore the community.

- Several KC kids participated in a Sprayfonger workshop with graffiti artist Peyton Scott Russell at Josephine Sculpture Park, to learn about graffiti as an exciting art form.
- St. Peter's Anglican Church brought a four-day STEM camp to the Kings Center and taught the kids to make creative Rube Goldberg devices and very useful solar ovens!
- Rev. Whitlock, of First Corinthian Church, donated tickets for our kids to participate in the Farm-City Field Day at West Sixth Farm, where they enjoyed lunch and a hay ride, plus lessons on crops and animals, and demonstrations by students in 4-H and FFA.
- Nurse Megan Cash, from Frankfort Regional Medical Center, spent a morning taking the kids' blood pressure and talking with them about careers in nursing.
- The kids took weekly trips to Paul Sawyer Library for all kinds of fun and learning!
- KSU's Dr. Travella Free organized weekly trips to the Rosenwald 4-H Youth Development Center, where the kids learned about gardening, animation, and creating videos.
- The kids took a Healthy Foods Cooking Class at Lakeview Park taught by Tamera Thomas through the Franklin County Cooperative Extension Office. They prepared a feast of chicken with roasted vegetables, spinach and strawberry salad, and cookies.



## Many thanks

The Kings Center has many people to thank for their generous gifts of time and money, and while we can't name them all, for this issue, special thanks go to:

- The family of longtime Kings Center supporter and volunteer Sandra Deaton, for their generous donation in her memory
- Bill Coffey for his generous donation in memory of his wife, Rebecca
- Capital City Christian Church for teaching the kids how to repair their bicycles
- Yes Arts for funding scholarships for Kings Center children to participate in the Sprayfonger workshop at JSP
- South Frankfort Presbyterian Church for our new dishwasher
- The Franklin County Community Fund of the Blue Grass Community Foundation, and Kentucky Foundation for Women for supporting HeartBEATS this school year
- Lyla Richards for donating the piano
- City of Angels for providing backpacks filled with supplies to all the children
- FRANK magazine for sharing our story



## We're covered!

Look for a great story about the Kings Center in the September issue of FRANK magazine!



## The Kings Center

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